

and the public concerning the reserve's significant cultural heritage resources was also a most important outcome of this relay project.

Work carried out at the site of the wheelwright's shop at the Forges du Saint-Maurice NHS during repairs to a waterway is another excellent example of the interaction between monitoring and other forms of archaeological mitigation (Drouin 1995). In this case the sequence was: monitoring of trenching, discovery of remains, testing, rescue excavation and a change of plans by which the further disturbance of archaeological resources could be avoided. This quick succession of events, with monitoring at its source, thus served to increase our knowledge of the site and to ensure the conservation of significant archaeological remains directly tied to the object of commemoration of the site.

#### *Conclusion*

I would like to express the view that monitoring has proven to be an important tool in the practice of archaeology, one which deserves to be used whenever justified. When carried out under favourable conditions by competent practitioners, monitoring can serve both as the front-line in the protection and recording of our buried heritage, and with the right ingredients, as a rich documentary source for the study of our past.

#### *Summary*

*Archaeological monitoring is bunk and useless! It may ease some people's consciences, but it is only supervised destruction.... Archaeological monitoring, what an excellent way to investigate a site without having to pay too much! Butchery for some, surgery for others—let's put things in perspective.*

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## NPS Archeology Program

**I**n the U.S., the National Park Service carries out the archeological responsibilities that Parks Canada has taken on for national parks and federal agencies in Canada. Since the beginning of the 20th century, when the Antiquities Act that protected archeological sites on public lands became law and began to influence public policy, the NPS has been relied upon as a source of expertise and knowledge for public archeology in the U.S. These government-wide archeology and historic preservation responsibilities were expanded in 1935 by the Historic Sites Act and again later by the National Historic Preservation Act, the Archaeological Resource Protection Act, the Abandoned Shipwreck Act, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

At one time, NPS archeologists provided professional and technical support for all agencies. However, since the 1970s, other public agencies, in particular land management agencies, have built professional staffs in archeology. These agencies now undertake their own archeological activities.

The NPS archeology program provides for the identification, evaluation, interpretation, protection, and preservation of archeological resources in national park units. We also carry out the leadership and coordination of federal archeology programs assigned to the Secretary of the Interior by several United States statutes. The coordination and leadership of federal archeology by the NPS is exercised through regulations, guidance, and cooperative activities with other federal agencies on topics of special importance. Current examples of such topics are: archeological collections management, public outreach, the protection of archeological resources, and providing appropriate access to archeological information and records.

We hope to continue to share program information and technical expertise with our partners in Canada.

—Francis P. McManamon  
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and Departmental Consulting Archeologist  
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